



# Governor's Methamphetamine Task Force

## Background and Authority

Governor Janet Napolitano established the Methamphetamine Task Force in August 2006, in response to Arizona's decade-long increase in the number of individuals regularly using methamphetamine and the resulting increase in social and economic cost. Governor Napolitano instructed the Task Force to approach Arizona's methamphetamine problem holistically, focusing equally on enforcement, prevention, and treatment.

In January 2007, the Task Force convened more than 400 professionals, program and policy experts and community leaders from across the state to develop recommendations for effectively confronting Arizona's methamphetamine crisis. Utilizing the input from the participants of this summit, the Task Force formulated 10 priority recommendations for the state and an accompanying action plan to implement the recommendations.

The recommendations are based on a multi-system approach in which all relevant assets, agencies, and personnel are involved in addressing the crisis from all sides. Each recommendation is accompanied by a clear and focused set of action steps. The action steps are strategic- that is; they are aimed at creating systemic changes in the way that Arizona addresses its methamphetamine problem so that the plan's objectives become reality.

In May 2007, the Task Force released the 10 priority recommendations in *A Plan for Action: Addressing the Methamphetamine Crisis in Arizona*. In keeping with the multi-sector nature of the plan, more than a dozen agencies are responsible for overseeing and implementing the action steps. The Task Force ensures that each action step is oriented toward measurable outcomes that can be tracked.

By establishing measurable outcomes for each recommendation month by month and tracking progress toward them, Governor Napolitano's *A Plan for Action* will continue to be a relevant document—a perpetual declaration of the commitment to eliminate methamphetamine in Arizona.

## Outcomes

- Creation of the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) in June 2007. Executive Order 2007-12 established ASAP as the single statewide council on substance abuse prevention, enforcement and treatment.
- Award of an approximately \$8.3 million Access to Recovery grant by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.
- Dramatic reduction in the number of clandestine methamphetamine labs due to regulatory efforts to control retail-level sales restrictions of precursor chemicals.
- Selection to be part of the Eight-State Combat Methamphetamine Initiative.
- Funding of 17 Anti-Methamphetamine Coalitions by The Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention to implement environmental strategies that have reached 120 cities and towns and roughly 37 percent of Arizona's population

## Activities

- Creation of a workgroup to improve the remediation process for seized methamphetamine labs.
- Tracking quarterly progress on implementation of the 9 priority recommendations for 2008.
- Participation in the development of a Tribal Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Workshop.
- Providing technical assistance and support to 15 Anti- Meth Coalitions through funding from The Parents Commission in Drug Education and Prevention.

For additional information please contact the Governor's Office for Children, Youth & Families - Division for Substance Abuse Policy (602) 542.3456

<http://gocyf.az.gov/SAP>